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## Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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**Statement**

## World Family Summit 2016: Families in Balance — Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity ensuring that NO FAMILY IS LEFT BEHIND

Sao Paulo Declaration

On 1 January 2015, at an historic United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development, 193 world leaders approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development counting 17 Goals and 169 targets as a Plan of Action for People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership and Peace.

On 1 January 2016, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development officially came into force challenging all sectors of society to mobilize efforts to implement it and especially to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, tackle climate change and strengthen universal peace in large freedom.

The commitment to "leave no one behind" is a key feature that we must embark in a great collective journey ensuring that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Global Goals are translated into effective actions reaching everyone over the next 15 years.

Over the past decades we have seen dramatic changes shaping our world, our communities and our families. Societies are aging, more women work outside their homes and more of us live in the cities. The competitive and rapidly changing labor markets compel parents to be more mobile in search of decent jobs to support their families.

Family poverty is still with us. It is troubling for a simple reason: if we do not tackle poverty within families, it will continue in the next generation. Many families struggle to provide for their children and at the same time support their aging and often frail older family members. Many adopt strategies helping them to survive but jeopardizing their children's future, for instance taking children out of school to help take care of younger siblings.

Governments and civil society have an obligation to help families so that they do not resort to this type of strategies. They must be empowered to overcome poverty so that it does not continue in the next generation.

The 2016 World Family Summit "Families in Balance: Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity and ensuring that No Family is Left Behind" was our starting point. With our discussions and recommendations we had a unique opportunity to start paving the road and together fulfill the pledge on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda making sure that NO FAMILY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND". The 2016 World Family Summit brought together the experiences, good practices and the endeavors of governmental organizations, civil society organizations, local authorities, academia working on family issues across the world.

Ministers, representatives of governments at the national and local levels, Regional and International organizations, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, parliaments, the private sector, youth, media and families, numbering 183 participants from 87 countries representing all continents of the world came together at the World Family Summit 2016 which successfully concluded its agenda and unanimously approved the São Paulo Declaration which recommends the consideration of the following family related

issues as the main topics for mainstreaming actions at the local, national and regional levels:

1. Develop national strategies and plans of action on families based on the SDGs to ensure no family is left behind.

2. Ensure that national strategies on the families are integrated within the national development plans and resources are allocated for its implementation.

3. Advocate for decreasing the financial dependency of people living in poverty and ensure availability of active transformative social programs based on empowering people through capacity building.

4. Advocate for translating policy commitments made by the international community into concrete support for national social protection initiatives notably the ILO's Social Protection Floor Approach whilst promoting the transformative role of social protection.

5. Encourage adopting policies that extend social insurance schemes towards informal economy in order to reduce vulnerability and improve resilience of families.

6. Advocate for improving the efficiency of social safety nets in targeting the poorest by strengthening the institutional capacities, coordination and notably the evaluation of programs.

7. Recognize the importance of investing in Management information systems that ensures better efficiency in identifying and targeting the poor as well as facilitating the use of Multidimensional Poverty approaches.

8. Ensure that all the measures taken in the field of social protection are family sensitive.

9. Advocate for families' right to access quality primary health care services.

10. Provide programs that educate parents on their children's major developmental milestones as well as on how to support their children's cognitive, social, emotional and physical development from the moment of conception throughout childhood.

11. Encourage families to promote the intergenerational transmission of values, skills and knowledge through positive cultural practices.

12. Advocate for developing national comprehensive education plans as per the Education for All Goals (EFA) that include effective teacher training, better teaching methods, and better equipped schools.

13. Promote shared domestic responsibilities among family members.

14. Promote women's participation in the labor market, including providing equal pay, and advocating for work-family balance policies.

15. Promote women's economic independence including employment to eradicate the feminization of poverty.

16. Ensure equal access for all women to productive resources, opportunities, financial inclusion and public services.

17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, migrant workers and persons with disabilities and ensure secure and safe working environments for all.

18. Recognize essential unpaid domestic work including caregiving within the family through social protection benefits and transfers.

19. Encourage businesses to adopt family friendly policies, products and services that empower families in the market place and in the community.

20. Promote the entrepreneurial skills for women, youth and persons with disabilities by supporting SMEs.

21. Encourage local authorities to develop their plans in line with the targets of SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, sharing successful experiences on sustainable urban development including smart cities through multi-media and networking.

22. Encourage building infrastructure that makes urbanization and cities more accessible, inclusive, liveable and friendly to all generations.

23. Ensure that current refugee programs and partnerships include family reunification as an integral part in keeping with the 1951 convention on the status of refugees.

24. Raise public awareness on the international and national cause of conflicts that lead to internal displacement, refugee flows and migration, including geopolitical and economic resource interests and lobby governments to address them, in keeping with the UN charter and SDG 16 – Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions.

25. Launch new partnerships with different stakeholders to address the needs of internally displaced people, refugees and migrant families.

26. Encourage governments and local authorities to create mechanisms for the participation of families in developing the public budget.

27. Encourage partnerships with all stakeholders in the achievements of the SDGs including with the public and private sectors, CSOs, academia, media, and encourage coordination at all levels; International, Regional, National and Local.

28. Develop evidence based policies and interventions to ensure no family is left behind.

29. Empower civil society organizations to advocate for the importance of families' participation in the decision-making process to ensure effective achievement of the SDGs.

The World Family Organization with its members and partners believes that addressing and reinforcing these recommendations during the next decade will ensure that NO FAMILY WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.